

FLD 578

CLASSIFICATION	SECRET/	25X1	25X1
COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	Military Information from the Templin troop Training Grounds		
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	28 August to 18 September 1953		
DATE OBTAINED	25X1	DATE PREPARED	8 October 1953
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	25X1
REMARKS	(to Army)		

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1. Between 1 and 7 September 1953, several firing practices and simulated attacks were observed in the Templin training area. Motor vehicles were seen during the practices.

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2. At about 3:15 p.m. on 4 September, a column of 10 trucks, occupied to capacity by troops, and several vehicles loaded with boxes and equipment passed through Templin, coming from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeding toward the training area.

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At about 10:45 p.m. on 4 September, a column of 52 trucks, 12 small armored personnel carriers, 1 armored scout car, 4 sedans and 11 buses, all occupied to capacity by troops, whom source estimated to total about 800 to 1,000 men, passed through Templin, coming from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeding toward Kammenberg-Vogelsang.

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3. On 15 and 16 August, 7 SP guns, truck and 8 SP guns were seen arriving at Camps Kammenberg and Vogelsang, coming from the direction of Eberswalde. Between 14 and 16 August, several small columns of vehicles occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets passed through Templin, coming from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeding toward the training area.

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Most of these vehicles returned empty in the evenings.

4. Between 14 and 20 August, a major practice attack, involving 14 T-34 tanks, 18 T-34/85 tanks, 7 SP guns, 25 trucks and 250 troops, was conducted in the Annenwalde-Bautel-Densow area.

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5. On 12 August, 20 T-34/85 tanks, 8 SU-152 guns and 17 trucks were loaded on a train, which included 10 boxcars occupied by about 300 troops, in Templin. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
6. Between 3 and 9 September, little activity was observed at the Kannenberg firing range. The firing practices were mostly held at night. Gun emplacements were identified in the Kannenberg area. Seven T-34/85 tanks, [redacted] and SU-152 gun, [redacted] were seen with the practicing units during the period under review.
7. On 26 August, road blocks of trenches were being prepared on the Templin-Lychen road extending from the Densow for stry as far as the branch-off to Tangersdorf and around the village of Tangersdorf. Signboards, reading "Soviet Army territory" and "restricted area" were [redacted] near the trenches.
- 25X1 [redacted]
8. During the night on 17 September, a heavy tank was detrained at the Templin railroad station and subsequently left toward Hammelspring.
- 25X1 [redacted]
9. Between 17 and 18 September, [redacted] motor vehicles were observed in the Templin-Zehdenick area [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
10. On 5 September, [redacted] the following buildings were being erected by the Bau Union Potsdam in Camp Vogelsang: 4 three-story quartering buildings for EM, about 60 x 12 meters; 2 three-story quartering buildings for officers, about 50 x 12 meters; 1 three-story headquarters building, about 60 x 12 meters, 1 three-story kitchen building, about 40 x 10 meters; 1 bakery; and 4 tank sheds, each with about 40 bays, about 120 x 8 meters.⁴
- 25X1 [redacted]
11. At about 6:45 p.m. on 9 September, 2 sidecar motorcycles, occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; and 2 half-track armored personnel carriers, towing 76-mm field guns, left the cantonment about 1 km west of Hammelspring, proceeding toward Vogelsang. Fifteen trucks were seen in the camp.¹
- 25X1 [redacted]
12. Between 14 and 16 September, [redacted] the newly erected quartering buildings northwest of Vogelsang had not yet been occupied. Two soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia patrolled the area. Intensive activity was observed at the buildings still under construction, with the plumbing being installed and the roofs being completed. The construction of more officer billets had been started west of the completed buildings. The officer billets were small, wooden, collapsible, detached buildings on brick footing and were 6,000 eastmarks apiece. An architect stated that after the completion of these buildings, construction work would continue in the area adjoining to the north.⁴
- 25X1 [redacted]

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- 25X1 1. [] Comment. Normal training activities were continued at the Templin
 25X1 troop training grounds until 9 September. []
 25X1 the training involved units of the 25th Tank Div and, probably, headquarters
 25X1 units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army, while units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div were
 25X1 rotated to the training area from their posts only temporarily.
- 25X1 2. [] Comment. []
 25X1 [] the composition of the column tends to indicate that it involved
 25X1 elements of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army which, on 4 September, had left Eberstalde
 25X1 toward the Templin training area. []
 25X1 [] the columns also included units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div.
 25X1 It is undetermined whether the units stayed at the troop training grounds or,
 25X1 in connection with the known command post exercise, proceeded toward southwest.
 25X1 This latter possibility is supported by the fact that, on 5 September, columns,
 25X1 of the army passed through Neuruppin, proceeding toward Neustadt/Dosse. []
 25X1 []
- 25X1 3. [] Comment. The train [] which carried to Kaulsdorf
 25X1 units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div, was repeatedly reported. []
- 25X1 4. [] Comment. [] the third construction stage of the
 25X1 barracks installations northwest of Vogelsang was to be completed in September 1953.
 25X1 . The planned enlargement of the installation tends to
 25X1 indicate that quartering facilities did not meet the requirements; thus, the
 25X1 information [] according to which the Weisse Stadt settlement
 25X1 in Oranienburg allegedly was to be occupied by units of the 25th Tank Div in
 25X1 the fall of 1953, gains credibility. []
- 25X1 5. [] Comment. [] confirms the 83d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 25th
 25X1 Tank Div (at Prenzlau until 23 June 1953 [] confirms the 162d Tank
 25X1 Regt of the 25th Tank Div (at Oranienburg until 17 August 1953.

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